

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2005

Building 31 – Conference Room 7

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Janet Austin, Valerie Durrant, Deborah Fountain, Alisa Green, Jayne Lura-Brown, Angela Magliozzi, Barbara Murphy, Kim Plascjak, Mary Ellen Savarese, Lisa Strauss

Members Absent: Susan Koester, Henry Primas

Liaisons in Attendance:

ChildKind, Inc.: Jaydah Wilson, Vanessa Baxendale, Dorit Raz, Sharla Young

POPI: Paulina Alvarado, Patricia Blessing

ECDC: Beth Levy

First Environments: Donna McNeill

Guest: Stephanie Kreider

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Janet Austin began the meeting by welcoming members, liaisons and guests.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Members approved the January 2005 minutes.
- III. **Committee Reports:**

Back up care report: Jayne Lura Brown led a discussion on back up child care, reporting on the Board Member tour of the ChildrenFirst facility on March 10, 2005. She explained that the facility is small serving only 32-34 children at maximum capacity. The atmosphere was very secure and comfortable. Jayne distributed a 2004 parent satisfaction survey with ChildrenFirst which indicated 99.4% are extremely satisfied with their overall experience with ChildrenFirst, while 99.6% would recommend this service to a co-worker. Mary Ellen asked the Board if this was something they wanted to explore. She went on to explain that Federal regulations limit NIH from involvement in a back up center. Janet recommended making back up care a priority for the next Board term and getting someone from Building 1 appointed to the Board to assist with this effort. Board members asked if the Child Care Board could talk with Chris Van Hollen about this issue. Janet clarified that members can talk to their respective congressman as private citizens, but not as Board Members. Janet recommended a small committee to convene and develop several action items in order to put this initiative in motion. Angie volunteered to Chair, and Lisa and Jayne volunteered to be committee members. Janet asked that they report their findings at the next CCB meeting. Recommendations may be included in the annual report. The object is to roll the concept of back up care into an expansion of opportunities for NIH child care resources.

Subsidy: Janet reported that the subsidy, the number one recommendation of last year's Board report, has been approved by Drs. Zerhouni and Kington. Dr. Kington will send correspondence to officially launch the subsidy program. The delay in the official release is that there is some confusion on whether HHS notifies Congressional Appropriations Committees, or waits until there is a response. The subsidy program however is in place. The contract with FEEA was effective April 1st. In its first year, the subsidy is expected to serve between 25 and 50 families. Mary Ellen reminds the Board that due to the constraint of the Tribble Amendment, the child care subsidy does not apply to

researchers that are not NIH Federal employees. In addition in order to be eligible for the subsidy, the applicant's total household income cannot exceed \$60,000 per year. According to information from other federal agencies from which the NIH program is modeled, the subsidy will primarily serve single parent households. The long term plan is to have the NIH child care centers provide some financial relief through scholarships for those families with a total household income between \$60,000 and \$80,000. With this in mind, the NIH subsidy program can serve those NIH employees in greatest need.

Parenting Festival Committee: Alisa Green reported that invitations were sent out to exhibitors from last year and to a few new exhibitors this year. The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account will join us again this year from Kentucky. Omega Travel will be a new exhibitor this year on family travel to assist NIHers with family friendly travel. Another new and exciting addition to the Festival will be a relaxation demonstration for frazzled parents given by Stephanie Kreider of CRC.

The Parenting Festival Committee will be putting the finishing touches for the event preparation following the CCB meeting. Alisa reminded the Board that this year's festival will span three days. In order to meet the needs of the numerous direct requests from last year's parents, we have added events to include parents of pre-teens/teens. The first day will be a lecture given by Dr. Jay Giedd entitled the "Teen Brain". On May 11 the classic Parenting Fair will showcase a variety of exhibits while on May 12th there will be an interactive parenting discussion called "Parenting 911," in the Rockledge area. This year we are making a concerted effort to include those employees that often feel isolated from main campus events. Valerie Durrant suggested as part of the communication initiative to ask the festival visitors to write their response to, "What is your biggest child care issue?" in a log book located at the Child Care Board table at the May 11 fair. Board members are encouraged to post Festival flyers in their buildings to create a buzz beyond the parenting and work/life listservs.

Membership Committee: Kim Plascjak announced that Valerie Durrant and Janet Austin will re-apply for Board positions for the 2005-2006 Board terms, while Sue Koester and Barbara Murphy will finish out their 2004-2005 term but will not re-apply due to the demands of other commitments. Hyden Shen submitted his resignation from the CCB since he has accepted employment at another federal agency. In total there will be three vacant positions that the Board will be looking to fill for the next term. Information including the position description and applications will be available at the Parenting Festival. Janet reminded the Board to think diversity. A vacancy announcement will be in the NIH Record.

- IV. **Board Annual Report-discussion and Committee Appointment:** The Board members discussed format, recommendation, priority and results. The work plan will focus on the subsidy monitoring, implementing the communication plan and creating a legislative strategy. Board Report committee members, Debbie, Valerie, Lisa and Jayne will complete a draft report by June to bring to the full Board.

IV. Announcements:

- Dona McNeil announced the construction of a new child care center which will open in July 2005 at Research Triangle, replacing a leased facility off campus. The new Center will expand capacity from 134 to 188 children. Outdoor Learning Environment will design some special features for the new Center.
- Alisa announced the lactation program has two new rooms opening in the Clinical Center.
- Beth Levy mentioned that the ECDC staff was excited about the upcoming Professional Day on April 22, 2005.
- Mary Ellen said that due to the high staff turn over recently at Work Life Strategies, we will closely monitor the quality of their service.
- Dr. Raz and Dr. Young suggested having periodic seminars about the intricacies of the waitlist. The Board is considering this suggestion.

IV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**The final meeting for this Board year will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2005
Building 45 – Rooms G1/G2**

Prepared by: Joy Postell 5/13/05